

Message Text

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11

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 CCO-00 INRE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12 RSR-01 EUR-25

/103 W

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O R 270555 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3259

INFO USDEL FRANCE

CINCPAC

CHUSDEL FPJMC SAIGON RVN

JHRC CLARK AFB

CMDR JCRC NKP THAI

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2241

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

U/ PW FOR SIEVERTS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: US PWS IN LAOS: DISCUSSION WITH LPF REP

REF: VIENTIANE 2240

1. REFTEL TRANSMITS SUBSTANCE OF MARCH 27 MEETING OF
DCM DEAN AND CONSUL RAND WITH LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETRASY.
PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF
DISCUSSION REGARDING OTHER US PWS WHICH PL MAY HOLD.

2. AFTER QUESTIONS RELATED TO MARCH 28 RELEASE OF NINE
PWS IN HANOI WERE RESOLVED, WE INFORMED SOTH THAT USG
CONTINUES TO HOPE LPF HOLDS OTHER US PWS WHOSE NAMES WERE
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NOT PLACED ON LIST TRANSMITTED BY DRV ON FEB 1. WE ASKED SOTH TO TRANSMIT THIS VIEW TO LPF AUTHORITIES IN SAM NEUA WITH REQUEST THAT LPF UNDERTAKE SERIOUS RESEARCH TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE ARE IN FACT OTHER PWS BEING HELD.

3. WE THEN DISCUSSED WITH HIM ON SOME DETAIL THE CASES OF EUGENE DEBRUIN AND USAF CAPT. DAVID HRDLICKA. WE PRESENTED HIM WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF BOTH MEN IN PL CAPTIVITY AND NOTED THAT BOTH PHOTOS HAD APPEARED IN NLHS PUBLICATIONS. WE SHOWED HIM AN EMBASSY MEMO OF CONVERSATION, PREPARED IN MAY 1966, IN WHICH SOTH ACKNOWLEDGED PL DETENTION OF DEBRUIN AND HIS REPORT THAT DEBRUIN WAS IN GOOD HEALTH. SOTH DISPLAYED KEEN INTEREST IN THE ITEMS PRESENTED. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD REFER THE QUESTION OF OTHER US PWS TO HIS SUPERIORS AT SAM NEUA AND AGREED TO CONVEY RESPONSE TO DCM AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED. HE ADDED THAT IN EVENT OTHER PWS LOCATED, THEIR RELEASE WOULD BE HANDLED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THE FEB 21 VIENTIANE AGREEMENT.

4. WE THEN REITERATED TO SOTH USG'S INTENSE INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR RESOLVING THE STATUS OF ALL US MIA'S AND THAT WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO THE COOPERATION OF LPF IN THIS HUMANITARIAN ENDEAVOR. SOTH REPLIED THAT HE APPRECIATED USG CONCERN IN THIS REGARD AND THAT LPF WOULD ASSIST IN THIS TASK.

5. COMMENT: OUR RECENT CONTACTS WITH SOTH BEAR OUT OUR EARLIER EVALUATION THAT HE HAS NO REAL AUTHORITY BUT IS ACTUALLY A MAILBOX. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE ASKED THAT HE CONVEY OUR VIEWS CONCERNING ADDITIONAL PWS TO SAM NEUA.

GODLEY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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JHRC CLARK AFB
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